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November 5th, 1850.

Dr. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

Dr. Leidy read a communication, intended for publication in the Proceedings, entitled "Descriptions of three *Filaria*," which was referred to Drs. Zantzing, Hallowell, and Morton.

The Curators exhibited a mounted specimen of *Lupus gigas*, Townsend, being one of the individuals which formed the subject of a paper, read at a late meeting of the Academy, by Dr. Townsend, and published in the last number of the Journal.

November 12th.

Dr. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

A letter was read from Mr. Edward Wilson, dated Lydstip House, Pembrokeshire, Wales, Oct. 21st, 1850, giving information of several cases of books and specimens of Natural History, which had been shipped from England, and were presented to the Academy by himself and others.

A letter was read from M. Von den Buch, dated Bremen, Sep. 14th, 1850, addressed to the late Dr. Griffith, in relation to exchanges in Conchology. Referred to the Conchological Committee.

November 19th.

Dr. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Royal Society of London, dated Aug. 9th, 1850, acknowledging the reception of Part 4, Vol. 1, New Series of the Journal, and of No. 12, Vol. 5, of the Proceedings.

The Curators exhibited mounted skeletons of *Testudo* —, from Java, presented by Mr. Ash, and of *Hypsiprymnus cuniculus*, from Tasmania, presented by Captain Wm. McMichæl.

Mr. Vaux, from the Publication Committee, announced the publication of Part 1, Vol. 2, New Series of the Journal, which was ready for distribution to subscribers.

November 26th.

Dr. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

The Committee, to which was referred the following by Dr. Leidy, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings :

Descriptions of three Filaria.

By JOSEPH LEIDY, M. D.

1. *FILARIA Hominis oris*.—Body white, opaque, linear, thread-like; mouth round, simple; posterior extremity obtuse, furnished with a short, curved, epidermal hooklet 1-500th in. in length, by 1-2000th in. in diameter at base.

Length 5 inches 7 lines, greatest breadth 1-66th in.; breadth at mouth 1-250th in.; at posterior extremity 1-80th in.

Remarks.—The description is taken from a single specimen preserved in alcohol, in the collection of the Academy, labelled “obtained from the mouth of a child.”

Is it a young individual, or perhaps a male of the *Filaria medinensis*, or Guinea-worm? The latter, as is well known, infests the human body, often growing to an enormous length, several yards or more, in the intertropics of Asia and Africa. It is frequently brought in the body of negro slaves from Africa to America, where no entozoon of the kind has ever been noticed to be parasitic in man as an indigenous production. From some late observations on the course of life of entozoa, helminthologists have been led to suspect that most, and probably all entozoa pass different stages of their existence in different animals. If such be the fact, may the *Filaria medinensis* not owe its introduction into the human body, from the custom which prevails in those countries, where the worm is found, of using insect food? Insects are well known to be infested with *Filaria*, probably more than any other class of animals. In Egypt, Arabia, &c., the locust is eaten; in Guinea, &c., the larger coleoptera; in the raw state, and in this condition *Filaria* may often be swallowed, and reach a higher development of their existence in the human body.

2. *FILARIA Canis cordis*.—Body white, opaque, linear, nearly uniform throughout, posteriorly subulate, pointed; mouth simple, round.

Length 10 to 10½ inches, greatest breadth 2-5th of a line, anteriorly 1-5th of a line; half an inch from posterior end, 1-10th of a line.

Remarks.—The description is taken from two individuals preserved in alcohol, in the collection of the Academy, presented by Dr. R. Coates, who obtained them, according to the label upon the bottle, from the parietes of the heart of a dog.

3. *FILARIA Boa constrictoris*.

♀. Body white, cylindrical; integument translucent, longitudinally striated; mouth simple, round; œsophagus cylindrical, opaque white; intestine opalescent, cylindrical, tortuous, corrugated, wider than the œsophagus; anus terminal, round; generative aperture close to the mouth; ovaries two, very long and very tortuous.

Remarks.—The description is taken from two specimens; one 10 inches long, by 4-5ths of a line wide, the other 6½ in. long by 3-5ths of a line wide. In the former the œsophagus is 9 lines long and 1-3d of a line wide, the intestine 13 in. long and 3-5ths of a line wide.

Habitation.—Found in the areolar tissue, in an irregular or tortuous position, between the muscles of the ribs and the integument of a *Boa constrictor*.

Note.—In the same *Boa constrictor*, which was dissected by my friend Dr. Hallowell and myself, we found in the right lung 6 females, 4 males, and a very young individual of *Pentastomum proboscideum*, and in the ureters of the kidneys 26 individuals of *Distomum horridum*.

ELECTION

Mr. Richard P. Remington, of Philadelphia, was elected a *Member* of the Academy.